

There is a problem, however, – there are no Indian cheetahs. The Central Zoo Authority has been requested to obtain an Asiatic breed from Iran. If that does not work out, the government is hopeful that Iran will permit the Indian scientists to collect the genetic material from its cheetahs.

Source: *Environmental News Service* (2000), 24 October.

#### **One-horned rhino population on the increase**

The Nepalese authorities have claimed success in the conservation of the one-horned rhino *Rhinoceros unicornis*, which is believed to be one of the world's most endangered species. Numbers are reported to have increased by more than 25 per cent in the past 6 years. The latest census puts the number of one-horned rhinos in Nepal to more than 600. According to the Director-General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal, the transfer of rhinos from an over-populated park in southern Nepal to another in the west helped to increase numbers. One-horned rhinos are only found in Nepal and the eastern Indian states of Assam and Bengal.

Source: *Zimbabwe Wildlife* (2000), July–September, 7.

#### **Partnership established to monitor biodiversity in Nepal**

A collaborative partnership has been established between the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation, a leading NGO in Nepal and Resources Himalaya, an independent private conservation organization. The purpose of this partnership is to share spatio-temporal information on Nepal's biodiversity. An example of this partnership is the sharing of a geographical information system (GIS) database that provides baseline information for monitoring changes in the biodiversity of the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA). As Nepal's largest protected area, conservation of biodiversity in the ACA is of utmost importance. It contains some of the highest peaks in the world and covers two distinct climatic regions, which support 22 different forest types ranging from subtropical sal forest to perennial snow. Many rare and endangered species live in the ACA, including the snow leopard *Panthera uncia*, musk deer *Moschus spp.*, Tibetan argali and

Tibetan wolf, as well as 38 breeding species of birds that are at risk in Nepal. Moreover, it is the only area in Nepal to contain all six species of Himalayan pheasants.

Source: *Habitat Himalaya* (2000), VII, 4.

#### **New bat species found in Laos**

Surveys for bats in central Laos led to the discovery of a small cave-roosting bat with large ears and large rounded flaps of skin on its nose, unlike anything previously known from Laos. Charles Francis of the Wildlife Conservation Society found the bat in a harp trap near the banks of the Nam Kading River. Initially, he thought it might be a new population of Ridley's roundleaf bat, but further examination showed that the bat was a new species. The new Lao roundleaf bat, formally described as *Hipposideros rotalis*, is one of several new bats found in the Ammanite Mountains and surrounding limestone outcrops.

Source: *Wildlife Conservation* (2000), July/August, 10.

#### **First tigers photographed in Cambodia**

Using automatic infrared-triggered cameras set along suspected wildlife paths, a team of researchers led by the Wildlife Conservation Society and the World Wildlife Fund have photographed tigers for the first time in Cambodia. Leopards *Panthera pardus*, clouded leopards *Neofelis nebulosa*, marbled cats *Felis marmorata*, sun bears *Helarctos malayanus*, Asian elephants *Elephas maximus*, dholes *Cuon alpinus* (Asian wild dogs) and two species of wild cattle – gaur *Bos gaurus* and banteng *B. javanicus* were also photographed. Their surveys reveal more than 60 varieties of large mammals, including eight primate species and six cat species. In addition, in Kirirom National Park surveyors sighted the elusive spotted linsang *Prionodon pardicolor* – a slender cat-like carnivore – the first time this species has been recorded in Cambodia.

Source: *Wildlife Conservation* (2000), September/October, 11.

#### **Cambodia and FAO implement anticrime project**

The Cambodian government and FAO have established a new project to fight corruption and uncontrolled illegal logging. The Forest Crime Monitoring and Reporting Project will introduce inde-

pendent monitoring systems to help track illegal logging and trade of forest products. The project is funded by the UK and Australian governments, through the UNDP. The FAO will provide technical training and advice to Cambodia's Forestry Department and Ministry of Environment in their efforts to set up inspection teams to monitor logging and trading activities.

The most innovative aspect of the project is the involvement of an independent watchdog organization – Global Witness – the British-based environmental and human rights group. Under a separate project agreement, Global Witness will oversee and verify monitoring of forestry activities and subsequent enforcement by police and the military. The arrangement is unusual because Global Witness has long been a critic of the government's forestry policies. International organizations have heralded the partnership as a strong indication of Cambodia's new commitment to reversing the country's past record of extensive logging.

Source: *Forest News* (2000), XIV(1), 4.

#### **Indonesia plans to curb expansion of timber mills**

The Indonesian government has recently proposed stopping all further development of ordinary plywood mills because of the growing shortage of logs. The government has revealed that the annual demand for raw materials in the timber industry has reached 63.5 million cubic metres whereas the available log production is 35 million cubic metres. Much of the shortfall is presumed to come from illegal logging operations and log thefts.

Source: *Forest News* (2000), XIV (2), 11.

#### **Endemic Sangihe bird named**

A review by Pamela Rasmussen and co-workers in the Oriental Bird Club's journal *Forktail* (16, 69–80) of the taxonomy of the black-crowned white-eye *Zosterops atrifrons* from the islands of eastern Indonesia has recommended that the white-eye complex be considered as more than one species. Of these, the form found on the small island of Sangihe has been given full species status and named the Sangihe white-eye *Zosterops nehrkorni*. This species differs in many respects from others in the group, most obviously in its bright pinkish bill and legs, and in its ecology